# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:225
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
AMENDMENTS TO FOREST CONSERVATION ACT, 1980
DUKHA BHAGAT;MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Forest Conservation Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the said Act has not been helpful in facilitating development of tribal areas; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

## Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) to (c) The Act being regulatory and not prohibitory in nature is flexible enough to allow important developmental activities on forest lands and as such no change or amendment in the Act is contemplated.

(d) & (e) Forests provide several usufructs in meeting the sustenance and livelihood needs of the tribals including food and ecological security. Regulation of diversion of forest to non-forestry activity is in the long term interest of the tribals and local communities. The Act has adequate flexibility to allow the activities that are for the welfare and development of the tribal areas.